

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

August 4, 2006

Message From County Executive Walker

This week, I attended a meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Milwaukee County's Finances. I presented a frank and honest picture of the depth of Milwaukee County's fiscal crisis. I also assured the members of the task force that we are still solvent, still able to pay our bills, and that there isn't yellow tape around the courthouse. You can read the Journal Sentinel article on that meeting here:

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=478208>

The depth of our fiscal challenges was also further underscored in the information I released during that presentation which shows the county obligation to retirees is over \$1.8 billion. That number is higher than the state's obligation was in 2003 when the state issued bonds to pay for their retiree benefits. This is further proof of the serious challenges we face in preparing a balanced budget. The Journal Sentinel did a good job of explaining this here:

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=479297>

Scott



State Fair



Walker at State Fair
Opening Ceremony

The Wisconsin State Fair opened yesterday at the State Fair Grounds in West Allis. The fair runs through August 13th. For more information, go to

www.wistatefair.com

Nissan Xterra Midwest Championship This Weekend



The Nissan Xterra Midwest Championship will take place August 5 and 6 at Veteran's Park. This huge event culminates in the pro race on August 6th, which is an off-road triathlon race featuring a 1.5k swim in Lake Michigan, a 30k mountain bike race through the Oak Leaf Trail along the Milwaukee River, and a 10k trail run through Veteran's Park.

The event will also feature kids activities at the Nissan Kids Base Camp, a climbing wall, charity 5k and 10k trail runs, and the Xterra Sport, which is a smaller version of the full triathlon. This event is one of only five races nationwide that lead to the Nissan Xterra USA Championship in Lake Tahoe. For more information, go to www.countyparks.com

DHHS Leads The Way In Error Rate Reduction

The Food and Nutrition Service (the federal oversight agency for the Food Stamp Program) recently announced that the payment error rate in Wisconsin for 2005 was 5.61% (the national rate was 5.84%). For the first time in 13 years, the error rate in Wisconsin is below the national average. Wisconsin also had the lowest and most improved error rate in the Midwest Region.

How did this happen in Wisconsin?

Milwaukee County makes up 40% of the Food Stamp Program caseload in our state. In 2005, the county posted an error rate of just 5.95%. In fact, in six separate months, the county was lower than the statewide average. That is the lowest ever for Milwaukee County and a 58% reduction over the past four years!

Congratulations to Corey Hoze, Economic Support Division Administrator and his staff (with the support of DHHS Director Rob Henken) for putting Operation Excellence into place.

US Bank Championship A Big Success

Despite the hot temperatures, the 2006 US Bank Championship at Brown Deer Park was a huge success. Congratulations to the winner, Corey Pavin, and congratulations to the Parks Department for putting on such a successful event. The event brought national attention to Milwaukee and to our parks.



US Bank Championship
winner Corey Pavin

Photo by Mary Jo Walicki

Mitchell Airport Has Busiest June Ever

General Mitchell International Airport had 663,304 passengers this June, making it the busiest June ever. The total was a 1.57% increase over June, 2005's record numbers. For the first six months of 2006, the passenger total is up 2.3% over the same period in 2005.

In other airport news, the Concourse E renovation project has been completed. The project has increased the Concourse E checkpoint from three lanes to four and will help to alleviate congestion. Northwest Airlines, Continental Express Airlines and Air Tran Airways use the 10 gates at Concourse E.

Calendar of Events

AFRICAN WORLD FEST

PLACE HENRY MAIER FESTIVAL PARK
TIME AUGUST 4-6

WWW.AFRICANWORLDFFESTIVAL.COM

WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

PLACE STATE FAIR PARK, WEST ALLIS
TIME AUGUST 3-13

WWW.WISTATEFAIR.COM

NISSAN XTERRA MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIP

PLACE VETERAN'S PARK
TIME AUGUST 5-6

WWW.COUNTYPARKS.COM

RIVER FLICKS

PLACE PERE MARQUETTE PARK
TIME FRIDAY NIGHTS, AUGUST

WWW.COUNTYPARKS.COM